

Weekly Column for November 30, 2006

Here we are, one week after Thanksgiving, which can mean only one thing. It is time to Stroll.

That's right, this Sunday the downtown will come alive with the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Victorian Stroll. And we are all in a wonderful winter mood as temperatures hover in the mid-60's. I am kidding, in no way would I ever be critical of warm November afternoons.

Each year as the Victorian Stroll approaches, the excitement throughout the downtown grows. As a City, we could not be more thrilled, as we see this event as a wonderful opportunity to showcase our City to both our residents and the many visitors from around the Northeast who will come to Troy this weekend.

The Stroll is truly a wonderful day for the whole family. From the musicians, dancers, and artists to the opportunity to experience the beautiful architecture and open houses throughout our downtown to the unique retail shops and restaurants that will be open throughout the day, there is truly something for everyone.

As the people that attend the Victorian Stroll enjoy the kindness of our downtown, the beautifully decorated storefronts, and the unique atmosphere, we hope they are left with a feeling that they must return. That is our ultimate desire.

For much of the past week, City crews have been hanging lights, cleaning the streets, and making sure we put on one terrific impression. This is a much easier task than it was just a few years ago, thanks to increased downtown cleanups, and added attention to cleaning the streets on a regular basis.

I will be around for the entire day on Sunday, in half-Victorian, half-present day garb this year. In addition to reading 'Twas the Night Before Christmas at the Troy Public Library, I will take part in the annual Christmas Tree lighting in front of City Hall at 5 p.m.

Before I go, I want to add that without the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce and President Linda Hillman, the Stroll you will see on Sunday could have never happened. Each year the Chamber faces the unexpected, from frigid temperatures to the enormous snowfall of 2003. Through it all, the event marches on. This year will be no different. The show will go on, and that is a testament to the organizers of the Stroll.

The weather is going to wonderfully seasonal Sunday afternoon. Take a few minutes and get into the holiday mood at the Victorian Stroll. Thanks and have a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy